# The Lesbian Family Study

Number 641p

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**Lesbian Family Survey**

Dear Friends,

Please note that there are two copies of the same survey in the packet, one for each mother in the family. Please do not answer the survey together since I would like to have each persons own unique feelings and experiences. There are no right or wrong answers. Please be sure to complete all sections and questions on both sides of each page. It will take approximately 45 minutes to complete the survey. Feel free to make comments on the pages to communicate with me. Do not put your names or any other identifying markings on this survey as it is meant to be anonymous. Please mail each survey separately in the stamped envelopes provided. **Thank-you** for sharing your family with me and for contributing to our understanding of lesbian families.

Mary Ann

**Section 1: Demographics----------**

**Please fill in the blank or circle the best answer:**

1) In which State do you live presently?_____.

2) Which best describes the environment where you live?

(circle one)

urban.....1
suburban area.....2
small city.....3
town .....4
rural area.....5

3) Which religious practice or denomination best describes you today?

(circle one)

Spiritual, but do not follow one religion.....1
Agnostic .....2
Atheist.....3
Buddhist.....4
Hindu.....5
Jewish: type?_____..6
Mormon.....7
Pagan.....8
Protestant: denomination?_____...9
Roman Catholic.....10
Taoist.....11
Other: please name:_____.12

4)Which religious practice or denomination were you raised in as a child?

(circle one)

Spiritual, but do not follow one religion.....1
Agnostic .....2
Atheist.....3
Buddhist.....4
Hindu.....5
Jewish: type:_____..6
Mormon.....7
Pagan.....8
Protestant: denomination:_____..9
Roman Catholic.....10
Taoist.....11
Other: please name_____.12

5) Your Individual Annual Gross Income:

(circle one)

$ 0- $20,000.....1
$21-$40,000.....2
$41-$60,000.....3
$61- $80,000.....4
$81- $100,000.....5
greater than $100,000.....6

6) Household Annual Gross Income

(circle one)

$0- $20,000.....1
$21- $40,000.....2
$41- $60,000.....3
$61-$80,000.....4
$81-$100,000.....5
greater than $100,000.....6

7) Please indicate your race(s)/ethnicity(ies):

(circle all that apply one)

African American or Black.....1
American Indian or Alaska Native.....2
Asian
Indian.....3
Chinese.....4
Filipina.....5
Hawaiian Native.....6
Japanese.....7
Pacific Islander.....8
South East Asian.....9
Other Asian,_____....10
Hispanic or Latina.....11
White.....12

8) a) What type of job do you have?

(circle one)

Professional.....1
Self-employed worker.....2
Managerial, Supervisory.....3
Factory, industry, laborers.....4
Farming, forestry, fishing.....5
Retail, Sales, Services.....6
Administrative & technical support.....7
Health care, non-professional.....8
Military.....9
Paid domestic/ child care.....10
Other_____.....11
not employed.....12

b) How much do you work at this job?

Full time.....1
Half time.....2
Casual (less than half time).....3

9) Please circle the highest formal education completed:

Elementary: 1----2----3----4----5----6----7----8
High School: 9----10----11----12
College or University: 13----14----15----16
Graduate Studies: 17----18----19----20----21----22----23----24

10) Were you born as a U.S. Citizen?

(circle one)

No.....0

Yes.....1

11) How old are you presently?

Age:_____ years.

12) How old were you when you identified as lesbian?

Age:_____ years.

13) How old were you when you had your first lesbian relationship?

Age:_____years.

14) How long have you been in your present relationship with your partner?

_____years.

**Section 2: Your Family** ----------

**For the purpose of this study, a child is considered living with you when they are with you for 50% of the time.**

15) Please fill in the blanks with information about the numbers of children.

a) How many children do you and your partner have in total?_____(number).

b) How many children live with you and your partner at least 50% of the time?_____(number).

c) How many of these children consider both you and your partner their moms?_____(number).

d) How many children consider only you their mom?_____(number).

e) How many children consider only your partner their mom?_____(number).

f) How many of the total number of children are grown and left home? _____(number).

16) a) Check the space by the statement that best describes your present family's beginnings:

__1) My partner and I met without children and decided to have/adopt a child(ren) together.

__2) My partner had a child(ren) from a previous relationship when I met her.

__3) I had a child(ren) from a previous relationship when I met my partner.

__4) My partner and I both had a child(ren) from a previous relationship when we met.

__5) I had a child(ren) from a previous relationship when my partner and I met and we decided to have/adopt children together.

__6) My partner had a child(ren) from a previous relationship when my partner and I met and we decided to have/adopt children together.

__7) Both my partner and I had children from a previous relationship when my partner and I met and decided to have/adopt children together.

b) If you had a child(ren) from a previous relationship, was that a previous....

(circle one)

heterosexual relationship.....1
lesbian relationship.....2
heterosexual and lesbian relationships.....3

c) If you had a child(ren) from a previous relationship, how actively involved is the child's other parent in the child(ren)'s care?

(circle one)

not involved.....1
a little bit involved.....2
moderately involved.....3
very involved.....4
extremely involved.....5

d) If you had children from a previous heterosexual relationship, is the man aware that you presently identify as lesbian?

(circle one)

yes.....1
no.....2

e) If you have adopted your children (neither of you became pregnant), were any of your children considered:

(circle all that apply)

- "medically fragile".....1..... ➪ How many children?_____
- "special needs".....2..... ➪ How many children?_____
- "difficult to place/adopt".....3..... ➪ How many children?_____
- None of these .....4

17) How did your children come to you?

(circle all that apply)

-through my pregnancy by alternative insemination by known donor.....1
-through my pregnancy by alternative insemination by unknown donor.....2
-through my pregnancy in a previous relationship.....3
-through my partner's pregnancy by alternative insemination by known donor.....4
-through my partner's pregnancy by alternative insemination by unknown donor.....5
-through my partner's pregnancy in a previous relationship.....6
-through adoption (neither partner became pregnant).....7
-through my previous partner's insemination, who I am no longer with.....8
-other? How?._____.....9

18) How old are your children now? What sex are they? Please fill in the blanks.

| AGE | SEX (m or f) |
|---|---|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

19)a) Do your children have men or a man in their lives (biologically related or not) who they know well?

Yes.....1
No.....2

b) If yes, who is this man/men?

(circle all that apply)

Biological father.....1
Known donor.....2
Friend.....3
Grandfather.....4
Uncle.....5
Other:_____.....6

c) Do your children have relationships with your parents (ie. their grandparents)?

(circle all that apply)

yes.....1
no, my mother deceased.....2
no, my father is deceased.....3
no, other reason.....4

d) If no, what are the other reason(s)?

(circle all that apply)

Live far apart.....1
Great emotional distance between you and your parents.....2
Your sexuality is not disclosed to your parents.....3
Your parents do not consider your children their grandchildren.....4
other_____
_____...5

20) a) Are you and your partner both <u>legal</u> parents to your children?

yes.....1
no.....2

b) If no, please share the reason for this difference in legal status.

(circle all that apply)

The state where I live does not legally allow this.....1
We can not afford this legal cost.....2
We do not find this necessary.....3
Both my partner and her ex-partner are the legal parents.....4
I and my ex-partner are the legal parents.....5
Other (please explain) _____
_____.....6

21) Who does the majority of daily child care in your home?

(circle one)

It is split about equally.....0
I do.....1
My partner does.....2

**Section 2: Your Experience with Lesbian Stigma** ----------

22) Have you ever lost a job because you were identified as a lesbian?

(circle all that apply)

Never.....1
I have, but my lesbianism was not a given reason.....2
I have, and my lesbianism was identified as a reason.....3

23) Looking back at all the jobs that you have had, how often have you experienced harassment about being a lesbian at your jobs?

(circle one)

Never.....1
Once or twice.....2
A few times.....3
Fairly often.....4
Very often.....5

24) Have you ever lost friendships after coming out to people?

(circle one)

Never.....1
Once or twice.....2
A few times.....3
Fairly often.....4
Very often.....5

25) Presently, how often are you worried about losing your job because you are a lesbian?

(circle one)

Never.....1
Not too often.....2
Somewhat often.....3
Very often.....4

26) At your job, how much stress does your lesbian identity create for you?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate.....3
quite a bit.....4
extreme.....5

27) How true are the following statements. Circle 0 if this statement does not apply to you.

a) Most of my co-workers would view my lesbianism as an OK part of me.

(circle one)

Does not apply.....0
Definitely true.....1
Mostly true.....2
Not sure.....3
Mostly false.....4
Definitely false.....5

b) My parents would view my lesbianism as an OK part of me.

(circle one)

Does not apply.....0
Definitely true.....1
Mostly true.....2
Not sure.....3
Mostly false.....4
Definitely false.....5

c) Most of my siblings would view my lesbianism as an OK part of me.

(circle one)

Does not apply.....0
Definitely true.....1
Mostly true.....2
Not sure.....3
Mostly false.....4
Definitely false.....5

d) My children would view my lesbianism as an OK part of me.

(circle one)

Does not apply.....0
Definitely true.....1
Mostly true.....2
Not sure.....3
Mostly false.....4
Definitely false.....5

e) Most of my extended family would view my lesbianism as an OK part of me.

(circle one)

Does not apply.....0
Definitely true.....1
Mostly true.....2
Not sure.....3
Mostly false.....4
Definitely false.....5

28) a) How tolerant of lesbianism is the <u>state</u> where you live now?

(circle one)

Not at all.....1
Slightly.....2
Moderately.....3
Quite a bit.....4
Extremely.....5

b) How tolerant of lesbianism is the <u>county</u> where you live now?

(circle one)

Not at all.....1
Slightly.....2
Moderately.....3
Quite a bit.....4
Extremely.....5

c) How tolerant of lesbianism is the <u>neighborhood</u> where you live now?

(circle one)

Not at all.....1
Slightly.....2
Moderately.....3
Quite a bit.....4
Extremely.....5

29) a) Which state(s)or country did you do the majority of your growing up?

State _____

Country _____

I grew up in many_____ ,_____ ,_____ , _____ ,_____

b) In general, how tolerant of lesbianism was the place(s) where you did most of your growing up?

(circle one)

Not at all.....1
Slightly.....2
Moderately.....3
Quite a bit.....4
Extremely.....5

30) In general, how traditional were sex roles (father as primary breadwinner, mother as primary housewife/childcare) in your family as you were growing up?

(circle one)

Not at all.....1
Slightly.....2
Moderately.....3
Very.....4
Extremely.....5

31) How often do you worry about your children being teased or harassed about having lesbian parents?

(circle one)

never.....1
almost never.....2
sometimes.....3
fairly often.....4
very often.....5
always.....6

32) How often do you worry about your children being physically hurt because of having lesbian parents?

(circle one)

never.....1
almost never.....2
sometimes.....3
fairly often.....4
very often.....5
always.....6

33) To your knowledge, have any of your children been teased or harassed because of having lesbian parents?

(circle one)

never.....1
once or twice.....2
A few times.....3
Fairly often.....4
Very often.....5
My children are too young to have this experience.....6
Their friends do not know they have lesbian parents.....7

34) To your knowledge, have any of your children been physically hurt because of having lesbian parents?

(circle one)

never.....1
once or twice.....2
A few times.....3
Fairly often.....4
Very often.....5
My children are too young to have this experience.....6
Their friends do not know they have lesbian parents.....7

35) Please circle the number that best describes your agreement with the following statements:

a) Stereotypes about lesbians have not affected me personally.

0----------1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6

strongly disagree — Neither agree or Disagree — Strongly agree

b) I never worry that my behaviors will be viewed as stereotypical of lesbians.

0----------1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6

strongly disagree — Neither agree or Disagree — Strongly agree

c) When interacting with heterosexuals who know my sexual identity, I feel they interpret all my behaviors in terms of the fact that I am a lesbian.

0----------1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6

strongly disagree — Neither agree or Disagree — Strongly agree

d) Most heterosexuals do not judge lesbians on the basis of their sexual identity.

0----------1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6

strongly disagree — Neither agree or Disagree — Strongly agree

e) My being lesbian does not influence how lesbians act with me.

0----------1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6

strongly disagree — Neither agree or Disagree — Strongly agree

f) I almost never think about the fact I am a lesbian when I interact with heterosexuals

0----------1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6

strongly disagree — Neither agree or Disagree — Strongly agree

g) My being a lesbian does not influence how people act with me.

0----------1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6

strongly disgree — Neither agree or Disagree — Strongly agree

h) Most heterosexuals have a lot more homophobic thoughts than they actually express.

0----------1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6

strongly disagree — Neither agree or Disagree — Strongly agree

i) I often think that heterosexuals are unfairly accused of being homophobic.

0----------1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6

strongly disagree — Neither agree or Disagree — Strongly agree

j) Most heterosexuals have a problem viewing lesbians as equals.

0----------1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6

strongly disagree — Neither agree or Disagree — Strongly agree

36) How obvious do you believe your lesbianism is to heterosexual adults?

(circle one)

extremely obvious.....1
very obvious.....2
somewhat obvious.....3
a little obvious.....4
not at all obvious.....5

37) How obvious do you believe your lesbianism is to other lesbians?

(circle one)

extremely obvious.....1
very obvious.....2
somewhat obvious.....3
a little obvious.....4
not at all obvious.....5

38) Do you feel that you are.....

(circle one)

butch.....1
femme.....2
neither.....3

39) Do you take part in a lesbian parent/family organization and it's activities?

(circle one)

no, I do not feel the desire.....1
no, but I would like to.....2
yes, I participate sometimes.....3
yes, I participate regularly.....4

40) Since your initial coming out to yourself, has your awareness of lesbian stigma (including discrimination and prejudice) changed?

(circle one)

Yes, my awareness has increased.....1
Yes, my awareness has decreased.....2
No, my awareness has not changed.....3

41) The following statements are about your feelings about being lesbian, not about your feeling about your family. Please circle the number that bests describes your agreement with the following statements:

a) I often feel it best to avoid personal or social involvement with other lesbians.

1----------2----------3----------4----------5

strongly disagree Strongly agree

b) I have tried to stop being attracted to women in general.

1----------2----------3----------4----------5

strongly disagree Strongly agree

c) If someone would offer me the chance to be completely heterosexual, I would accept the chance.

1----------2----------3----------4----------5

strongly disagree Strongly agree

d) I wish I weren't lesbian.

1----------2----------3----------4----------5

strongly disagree Strongly agree

e) I feel alienated from myself because of being lesbian.

1----------2----------3----------4----------5

strongly disagree Strongly agree

f) I wish I could develop more erotic feeling about men.

1----------2----------3----------4----------5

strongly disagree Strongly agree

g) I feel that being lesbian is a personal shortcoming for me.

1----------2----------3----------4----------5

strongly disagree Strongly agree

h) I would like to get professional help in order to change my sexual identity from lesbian to straight.

1----------2----------3----------4----------5

strongly disagree Strongly agree

i) I have tried to become more sexually attracted to men.

1----------2----------3----------4----------5

strongly disagree Strongly agree

42) In your view, how much stigma (including prejudice and discrimination) is there for lesbianism in the USA today?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
a moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5
extreme amount.....6

43) Please rank the top 5 sources of stigma/discrimination in your life. The number 1 will represent the greatest source, while 5 will represent the least.

____ your religion
____ your co-workers
____ your siblings
____ your children
____ your neighbors
____ your health care providers
____ your parents
___ your job
___ your government
___ your extended family
___ other,_____

44) Have you had experience with name calling or harassment about being lesbian?

(circle one)

Never.....1
Once or twice.....2
A few times.....3
Fairly often.....4
Very often.....5

45) Have you had experience with physical violence because you were lesbian?

(circle one)

Never.....1
Once or twice.....2
A few times.....3
Fairly often.....4
Very often.....5

46) How often do you worry that your child's problems or negative behavior will be blamed on having lesbian parents?

(circle one)

never.....1
almost never.....2
sometimes.....3
fairly often.....4
very often.....5
always.....6

47) How often are you concerned about legal custody of your children because you are lesbian?

(circle one)

I don't have legal custody ....0
never.....1
almost never.....2
sometimes.....3
fairly often.....4
very often.....5
always.....6

48) Have you ever lost legal custody of a child because you are a lesbian?

yes.....1
no.....2

49) Have you ever had a relationship with a child restricted because of your lesbianism? (Eg. supervised visits or inability to speak freely about yourself).

yes.....1
no.....2

50) Has anyone ever told you that you were mentally ill because you are a lesbian?

(circle one)

Never.....1
Once or twice.....2
A few times.....3
Fairly often.....4
Very often.....5

51) How much stress does stigma (including discrimination and prejudice) about your lesbian identity create in your life today?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
a moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5
extreme amount.....6

52) Since your initial coming out to yourself, has the stress that you feel from lesbian stigma changed?

(circle one)

Yes, my stress has increased.....1
Yes, my stress has decreased.....2
No, my stress has not changed.....3

53) How many times in a regular month do you feel the need to be cautious about your sexual identity?

(circle one)

Never.....1
Once or twice.....2
A few times.....3
Fairly often.....4
Very often.....5

54) Are you involved in political aspects of the lesbian community?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
a moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5
extreme amount.....6

55) Do you consider yourself a feminist?

(circle one)

not at all.....1
a little bit.....2
a moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5
extreme amount.....6

56) Do you ever delayed health care because of fear of discrimination about your lesbian identity from your health care provider?

(circle one)

Never.....1
Once or twice.....2
A few times.....3
Fairly often.....4
Very often.....5

57) Do you ever delayed your children's health care because of fear of discrimination about your lesbian family?

(circle one)

Never.....1
Once or twice.....2
A few times.....3
Fairly often.....4
Very often.....5

**Section 3: Disclosure of Personal Information----------**

58) This is a questionnaire about 20 different situations to see how people would react to them in terms of how willing they would be to reveal any type of personal information about themselves in each specific situation. You are to indicate how willing you would be to self-disclose any type of personal information in each situation. Do this by imagining yourself in each situation, and then ask yourself how revealing you would generally be.

To record your reactions to a situation, use the number scale below. Select the number which best indicates the degree of self-disclosure at which you would be comfortable in the situation, and put that number in the blank beside that situation.

In looking at the numbered scale, you will see that only the numbers at the far left and far right have been described. You should however use any of the numbers which best represent your reaction to the situation. These numbers from 1 to 6 are to be understood as indicating gradual increasing degree of willingness to disclose at a personal level in that situation.

**1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6**

⇓ ⇓

I would be willing to discuss only certain topics, and on a superficial level only, if at all, in this situation.

I would be willing to express, in complete detail, personal information about myself in such a way that the other person(s) truly understand(s) where I stand in terms of my feelings and thoughts regarding any topic.

Insert scale number

⇓

⇓ Situation you <u>imagine</u> yourself in:

_____ a) You are on a blind date.

_____ b) You are having dinner at home with your family.

_____ c) You are sightseeing with a tour group in Europe.

_____ d) You are sitting next to a stranger on an airplane.

_____ e) You are with the family of a friend.

_____ f) You are in a coffee shop with some casual friends.

_____ g) You are being introduced to a group of strangers.

_____ h) You are a member of an encounter/sensitivity group.

_____ i) You are at a party with some friends.

_____ j) You are in the library with a friend.

_____ k) You have picked up a hitchhiker while driving.

_____ l) It's evening and you are alone with your girlfriend at her home.

_____ m) You are applying for a job as a public relations consultant.

_____ n) You are in a discussion class on human sexuality.

_____ o) You are at a restaurant with a woman on a second date.

_____ p) You are meeting your girlfriend's parents for the first time.

_____ q) You are eating lunch alone and a stranger asks if he or she may join you.

_____ r) You are taking a walk with your girlfriend.

_____ s) You and a friend are driving to San Francisco.

_____ t) You are on a picnic with friends.

**Section 4: Disclosure of your Sexual Identity** ----------

Please circle the number that best describes how disclosed ("out") you are about your lesbian identity with the following people. When the relationship refers to a group of people, circle the number that represents most of them. Circle 0 if this person is deceased or you do not have this relationship in your life and go onto the next relationship (number).

**59) Your mother**:

a) How much have you disclosed ("come out") to your mother about your lesbianism?

(circle one)

deceased/don't have this relationship in my life.....0
doesn't know anything.....1
has an idea.....2
knows, but was never told.....3
told, but rarely speak of it.....4
told and speak freely without hesitation.....5

b) How important is your mother in your life?

(circle one)

not at all.....1
slightly.....2
moderately.....3
quite a bit.....4
extremely.....5

c) How much stress do you feel with this relationship because of your lesbianism?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

60) **Your Father**:

a) How much have you disclosed ("come out") to your father about your lesbianism?

(circle one)

deceased/don't have this relationship in my life.....0
doesn't know anything.....1
has an idea.....2
knows, but was never told.....3
told, but rarely speak of it.....4
told and speak freely without hesitation.....5

b) How important is your father in your present life?

(circle one)

not at all.....1
slightly.....2
moderately.....3
quite a bit.....4
extremely.....5

c) How much stress do you feel with this relationship because of your lesbianism?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

61) **Your Siblings**: Relationships with siblings can vary. Please insert the scale number for each one of your siblings, just to the right of the scale. Please answer a, b and c parts for the same sibling (eg, sibling 1 is you oldest sibling for all three questions a, b and c parts).

a) How much have you disclosed ("come out") to your siblings about your lesbianism?

(choose one scale number for each sibling and insert below)

| | |
|---|---|
| don't have these relationships in my life.....0 | sibling # 1____ |
| doesn't know anything.....1 | sibling # 2____ |
| has an idea.....2 | sibling # 3____ |
| knows, but was never told.....3 | sibling # 4____ |
| told, but rarely speak of it.....4 | sibling # 5____ |
| told and speak freely without hesitation.....5 | sibling # 6 ____ |

b) How important are your siblings in your present life?

(choose one scale number for each sibling and insert below)

| | |
|---|---|
| not at all.....1 | sibling # 1____ |
| slightly.....2 | sibling # 2____ |
| moderately.....3 | sibling # 3____ |
| quite a bit.....4 | sibling # 4____ |
| extremely.....5 | sibling # 5____ |
| | sibling # 6____ |

c) How much stress do you feel with these relationships because of your lesbianism?

(choose one scale number for each sibling and insert below)

| | |
|---|---|
| none at all.....1 | sibling # 1____ |
| a little bit.....2 | sibling # 2____ |
| moderate amount.....3 | sibling # 3____ |
| quite a bit.....4 | sibling # 4____ |
| very much.....5 | sibling # 5____ |
| | sibling # 6____ |

62) **Your Boss**:

a) How much have you disclosed ("come out") to your boss about your lesbianism?

(circle one)

don't have this relationship in my life.....0
doesn't know anything.....1
has an idea.....2
knows, but was never told.....3
told, but rarely speak of it.....4
told and speak freely without hesitation.....5

b) How important is your boss in your present life?

(circle one)

not at all.....1
slightly.....2
moderately.....3
quite a bit.....4
extremely.....5

c) How much stress do you feel with this relationship because of your lesbianism?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

63) **Your co-workers**:

a) How much have you disclosed ("come out") to your co-workers about your lesbianism?

(circle one)

don't have these relationships in my life.....0
don't know anything.....1
has an idea.....2
knows, but was never told.....3
told, but rarely speak of it.....4
told and speak freely without hesitation.....5

b) How important are your co-workers in your present life?

(circle one)

not at all.....1
slightly.....2
moderately.....3
quite a bit.....4
extremely.....5

c) How much stress do you feel with these relationships because of your lesbianism?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

64) **Your Health Care Providers:** Relationships with health care providers can vary. Please insert a scale number for each one of your health care providers, just to the right of the scale.

a) How much have you disclosed ("come out") to your health care providers about your lesbianism?

(choose one scale number for each health care provider and insert below)

don't have this relationship in my life.....0
doesn't know anything.....1
has an idea.....2
knows, but was never told.....3
told, but rarely speak of it.....4
told and speak freely without hesitation.....5

Primary MD/Nurse Pract _____
Obstetrician/gynecologist _____
Chiropractor.....
Acupuncturist.....
Mental Health Counselor..
Other: name?_____.

b) How important are your health care providers in your present life?

(choose one scale number for each health care provider and insert below)

not at all.....1
slightly.....2
moderately.....3
quite a bit.....4
extremely.....5

Primary MD/ Nurse Pract...
Obstetrician/gynecologist...
Chiropractor.....
Mental Health Counselor...
Other: name?_____..

c) How much stress do you feel with these relationships because of your lesbianism?

(choose one scale number for each health care provider and insert below)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

Primary MD/ Nurse Pract...
Obstetrician/gynecologist....
Chiropractor.....
Acupuncturist.....
Other: Name?_____...

65) **Your Priest, Rabbi, Ministers, Spiritual Advisor etc:**

a) How much have you disclosed ("come out") to your priest, rabbi, minister or spiritual advisor about your lesbianism?

(circle one)

don't have this relationship in my life.....0
doesn't know anything.....1
has an idea.....2
knows, but was never told.....3
told, but rarely speak of it.....4
told and speak freely without hesitation.....5

b) How important is your priest, rabbi, minister or spiritual advisor in your present life?

(circle one)

not at all.....1
slightly.....2
moderately.....3
quite a bit.....4
extremely.....5

c) How much stress do you feel with this relationship because of your lesbianism?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

66) **Extended Family**:

a) How much have you disclosed ("come out") to your extended family about your lesbianism?

(circle one)

don't have these relationships in my life.....0
don't know anything.....1
has an idea.....2
knows , but was never told.....3
told, but rarely speak of it.....4
told and speak freely without hesitation.....5

b) How important is your extended family in your present life?

(circle one)

not at all.....1
slightly.....2
moderately.....3
quite a bit.....4
extremely.....5

c) How much stress do you feel with these relationships because of your lesbianism?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

67) **Your Neighbors**:

a) How much have you disclosed ("come out") to your neighbors about your lesbianism?

(circle one)

don't have these relationships in my life.....0
don't know anything.....1
has an idea.....2
knows, but was never told.....3
told, but rarely speak of it.....4
told and speak freely without hesitation.....5

b) How important are your neighbors in your present life?

(circle one)

not at all.....1
slightly.....2
moderately.....3
quite a bit.....4
extremely.....5

c) How much stress do you feel with these relationships because of your lesbianism?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

68) **Your friends**:

a) How much have you disclosed ("come out") to your friends about your lesbianism?

(circle one)

don't have these relationships in my life.....0
doesn't know anything.....1
has an idea.....2
knows, but was never told.....3
told, but rarely speak of it.....4
told and speak freely without hesitation.....5

b) How important are your friends in your present life?

(circle one)

not at all.....1
slightly.....2
moderately.....3
quite a bit.....4
extremely.....5

c) How much stress do you feel with these relationships because of your lesbianism?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

69) **Your children's day care providers**:

a) How much have you disclosed ("come out") to your children's day care providers about your lesbianism?

(circle one)

don't have this relationship in my life.....0
doesn't know anything.....1
has an idea.....2
knows, but was never told.....3
told, but rarely speak of it.....4
told and speak freely without hesitation.....5

b) How important are your children's day care providers in your present life?

(circle one)

not at all.....1
slightly.....2
moderately.....3
quite a bit.....4
extremely.....5

c) How much stress do you feel with these relationships because of your lesbianism?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

70) **Your children's teachers**:

a) How much have you disclosed ("come out") to your children's teachers about your lesbianism?

(circle one)

don't have this relationship in my life.....0
doesn't know anything.....1
has an idea.....2
knows, but was never told.....3
told, but rarely speak of it.....4
told and speak freely without hesitation.....5

b) How important are your children's teachers in your present life?

(circle one)

not at all.....1
slightly.....2
moderately.....3
quite a bit.....4
extremely.....5

c) How much stress do you feel with these relationships because of your lesbianism?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

71) **Your children's school principals**:

a) How much have you disclosed ("come out") to your children's school principal about your lesbianism?

(circle one)

don't have this relationship in my life.....0
doesn't know anything.....1
has an idea.....2
knows, but was never told.....3
told, but rarely speak of it.....4
told and speak freely without hesitation.....5

b) How important are your children's principals in your present life?

(circle one)

not at all.....1
slightly.....2
moderately.....3
quite a bit.....4
extremely.....5

c) How much stress do you feel with these relationships because of your lesbianism?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

72) **Your children's coaches and club leaders**:

a) How much have you disclosed ("come out") to your children's coaches and club leaders about your lesbianism?

(circle one)

don't have this relationship in my life.....0
doesn't know anything.....1
has an idea.....2
knows, but was never told.....3
told, but rarely speak of it.....4
told and speak freely without hesitation.....5

b) How important are your children's coaches and club leaders in your present life?

(circle one)

not at all.....1
slightly.....2
moderately.....3
quite a bit.....4
extremely.....5

c) How much stress do you feel with these relationships because of your lesbianism?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

73) **Your children's peer's parents:**

a) How much have you disclosed ("come out") to your children's peer's parents about your lesbianism?

(circle one)

don't have this relationship in my life.....0
doesn't know anything.....1
has an idea.....2
knows, but was never told.....3
told, but rarely speak of it.....4
told and speak freely without hesitation.....5

b) How important are your children's peers parents in your present life?

(circle one)

not at all.....1
slightly.....2
moderately.....3
quite a bit.....4
extremely.....5

c) How much stress do you feel with these relationships because of your lesbianism?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

74) What makes you most uncomfortable about coming out to people? Please rank the top 5 sources of discomfort where 1 will be the greatest source and 5 will the least. Leave the remaining sources blank.

(Rank number 1-5)

when it is a large group of people.....____
when I have just met the person.....____
when I know this person to be conservative.....____
when I know there is no other lesbian around.....____
when I know this person from my work.....____
when I know this person through my children.....____
when I know the person is conservatively religious.....____
when I know I am in a conservative community.....____
when I know I do not have time to discuss the issues.....____
Other:_____.....____

75) How difficult was the first coming out to yourself?

(circle one)

Extremely.....1
Very.....2
Quite.....3
Somewhat.....4
A little.....5
Not at all.....6

76) How difficult was the first coming out to your closest family and friends?

(circle one)

I haven't come out.....0
extremely.....1
very.....2
quite.....3
somewhat.....4
a little.....5
not at all.....6

77) In general, how difficult is it for you to come out to people today?

(circle one)

extremely.....1
very.....2
quite.....3
somewhat.....4
a little.....5
not at all.....6

78) Since you first came out to your self, has the difficulty to come out to others changed?

(circle one)

yes, it is more difficult.....1
yes, it is easier.....2
there is no change.....3

79) Do you avoid situations where you know you will likely have to come out?

(circle one)

never.....1
almost never.....2
sometimes.....3
fairly often.....4
very often.....5
always.....6

80) Do you avoid situations where you know coming out about your family type will probably happen?

(circle one)

never.....1
almost never.....2
sometimes.....3
fairly often.....4
very often.....5
always.....6

81) What makes your willingness to come out decrease? Please rank these from 1 to 5 where 1 is the most common reason for your willingness to decrease and 5 is the least common reason for your willingness to decrease. Leave the remaining reasons blank.

(Rank number 1-5)

when I am tired.....____
when I feel angry.....____
when there are too many people around...____
when I feel stressed.....____
when I am pre-menstrual.....____
when I don't have an friend by my side....____
when I don't know the group.....____
when I feel bad about myself.....____
when I feel rushed.....____
when I feel unsafe.....____
when people from my work are present....____
Other:_____.....____

82) How often have you come out to your health care provider?

(circle one)

never.....1
almost never.....2
sometimes.....3
fairly often.....4
very often.....5
always.....6

83) Some lesbian parents teach their children ways to come out about their lesbian family. They may do this by having discussions about prejudice and discrimination, talking about teasing and harassment, and helping their child understand differences. Have you done any of these (or others) with your child because of your lesbian family identity?

(circle one)

my children do not know I am a lesbian.....1
my children are still too young.....2
none.....3
sometimes.....4
often.....5
very often.....6

84) How much support do you feel from your gay and lesbian friends?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

85) How much support do you feel from your family?

(circle one)

none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

86) How much support do you feel from your heterosexual friends?

(circle one)
none at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

87) How conservative was the religion that you were raised in ?

(circle one)
wasn't raised with any....0
not at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

88) How conservative is the religion that you practice today?

(circle one)
don't practice any.....0
not at all.....1
a little bit.....2
moderate amount.....3
quite a bit.....4
very much.....5

**Please check that you have completed both sides of each page.**

**Thank you so much for your time and effort**.

Please write any comments you wish in the space below: